



Gros Morne National Park



Conception Bay



Cape Spear, Newfoundland

Newfoundland

It's a pleasure to visit

by Claude R. Lemieux

Newfoundland! The word conjures up images of tiny fishing villages nestled in coves and surrounded by sea-swept cliffs. You'll find them anywhere along the province's rugged coasts.

But the cities are just as interesting and of course offer many more amenities. St. John's, the capital, has a population of 140,000. The next largest, Corner Brook with 26,000, is the main city on the west coast.

Our oldest city

St. John's claims to be the oldest city founded by Europeans north of Mexico. It is also the easternmost city on the continent. John Cabot is supposed to have stopped in the harbour in 1497; Jacques Cartier visited it several times. Not long after, and some say even before, it became a regular stopover point for Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, French and British fishermen. The first house was built on Water Street in 1528. This makes it the oldest street in America.

St. John's magnificent harbour, halfway between Montreal and Europe and on the edge of one of the world's richest fishing grounds, is a second home to the fishing fleets of many nations. A walk along the harbour front reveals a polyglot culture which adds great vitality to the life of the city. Stretching back from the busy wharves is a modern, contemporary city which it is a pleasure to visit.

Built on paper

Corner Brook is a busy industrial city 684 km from St. John's. The west coast's commercial centre, is situated at the mouth of the Humber River at the head of a 40 km fjord, surrounded by a verdant coniferous forest.

Like St. John's, it's a hilly city but the similarity stops there. It's a modern planned city and a major Canadian pulp and paper producer. The Bowater Mill, once the world's largest welcomes visitors. Several major American newspapers on the east coast are printed on paper produced here.

The Humber is famous for its salmon fishing in season. There is a scenic drive to Bottle Cove at the end of Highway 450. Along the route you will find a picturesque fishing village, Lark Harbour, on the Bay of Islands.

Corner Brook is served by two airports, one to the north at Deer Lake and one to the south at Stephenville. There are daily flights by Air Canada to Stephenville and by EPA to Deer Lake. Car rentals present no problems at Corner Brook and the city has such comfortable hotels as the Tudor-style Glynmill Inn, the modern downtown Holiday Inn and the newer Mamateek Motor Inn on the Trans-Canada Highway.

Trans-Canada highway

St. John's and Corner Brook are linked by the Trans-Canada

Highway. Service stations and hotels along the route are numerous and accept most credit cards. There are also many fine camp grounds with every facility.

Gander, Windsor and Grand Falls are important centres along the way and all have good accommodation and other services. From Deer Lake, it is a short drive to the rugged but awesome Gros Morne National Park with its deep fjords and high mountains. The 396 km² Terra Nova National Park is bisected by the highway and the fascinating Eastport Peninsula is just off it.

Several side trips from the Trans-Canada Highway are available. Highway 70 leads to the towns of Harbour Grace and Carbonear as well as the scenic fishing villages of Port-de-Grave and Hibbs Cove. The historic old French capital of Placentia, with its national historic park, is only a half-hour drive from the main highway, close to the former American Naval base of Argentia.

The most convenient way to reach Newfoundland is by plane to St. John's or Corner Brook and rent a car. Take more time and cross by ferry from North Sydney, Nova Scotia. It's a short crossing to Port-aux-Basques or take a longer sea voyage to Argentia which is only 127 km from St. John's. If you'd like more information about Newfoundland vacations write: Dept. of Tourism, Recreation & Culture, 146-148 Forest Rd., St. John's, Nfld., A1A 1E6. □